



BLM News



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For Immediate Release

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WILDFIRE STRIKES RICH COUNTY AFTER LIGHTNING STORM

Tuesday, July 11, 2006 ... Salt Lake City ... Lightning storms over the weekend brought wildfire to Rich County, shifting focus from the West Desert to higher country. The largest wildfire is called Twin Peaks located approximately three miles south of Laketown in the Bear Lake area. According to fire officials it has burned around 400 acres and was 10% contained as of last night, although progress has been made this morning toward containment.

Accessibility is an issue in getting the necessary fire crews and equipment into the area, although currently 60 firefighters are there and aerial resources. Fire officials estimate the fire will be contained tonight. Overnight humidity helped cool the fire, giving firefighters opportunity to secure the perimeter. Crews from Rich County, the State of Utah and BLM are on this fire.

The fire is burning within an area designated by the BLM as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern that includes the Laketown Municipal Watershed and critical deer winter range. Fire managers are making every effort to minimize impacts to these resources. Emergency stabilization will be implemented on the slopes and a plan will be developed for future rehabilitation as assessed by environmental specialists with assistance requested from Utah's Department of Wildlife Resources, Laketown, and other cooperators. Anyone interested in this planning process is invited to call the Salt Lake Field Office at (801) 977-4300.

Fire danger is at high levels despite recent moisture in certain areas. Summer precipitation typically only reduces the fire danger for a short time due to high temperatures, low humidity and long days.

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